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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,446	03/28/2001	Jochen Kappel	51207-1070	2724
22827	7590	05/19/2005	EXAMINER	
DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449			JASMIN, LYNDY C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/819,446	KAPPEL ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Lynda Jasmin	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Appeal Brief received March 07, 2005 has been entered. The finality of the rejection of the last Office action mailed on October 5, 2004 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanagan et al. (2001/0056362 A1), in view of Charlie H. T. Boyd (1993-1994 Annual Review of Communication) (hereafter Boyd).

Hanagan discloses a customer care and billing system having at least one database (via database server 29), a plurality of clients and at least one application server with accompanying clients (see box [298]) are communicating with the at least one database (29), and an appropriate framework (which provide support layer to the developer, and a base upon which business functionality can be developed), wherein relevant services corresponding to desired customers care and billing processes are offered (via all types of electronic transmission, such as wireless see boxes [0022]-[0044]). The system further includes distributed component architecture with components (12, 14, 16, 18 and 22) attributed in correspondence to the relevant services offered (box [0054]).

Hanagan further discloses that the system is divided into at least two layers (as illustrated in figure 23), and at least two hierarchically arranged tiers corresponding to technical tasks (as illustrated in Figure 24) wherein the combined elements of all tiers fulfill the tasks from the storage to the presentation of data over a network such as the Internet. Hanagan further discloses a lowest base layer (392) containing fundamental system behavior and a common layer (box [0296]). The system also includes a technical services layer (via technical application structure), and an application layer (via software layers 394). The system further includes a business layer containing the domain-specific classes for each component (via business application layers).

Although Hanagan discloses that the components can be integrated together into a system where the components work together, however, Hanagan fails to explicitly disclose that the components communicate with each other directly via interfaces.

Boyd discloses the concept of having a manager billing architecture and planning customer billing where the primary objective is to provide a shared data layer building block to support billing and other functions that require access to customer account information. Boyd further discloses close interaction between the billing operations applications, the In-effect Service Record, the Customer service record and the Billing Systems, which include the customer Records Information System and the Carrier Access Billing System.

From this teaching of Boyd, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the billing and customer care system of Hanagan to include the direct interface or interaction as taught by Boyd in

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order to facilitate shared corporate data in the interoperability of diverse systems and to develop the flexibility to support future services with speed and accuracy.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kasrai, and Joyce et al. are cited for discloses converge communication platform.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynda Jasmin whose telephone number is (571) 272-6782. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday (9:30-6:00) with Increased Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert P Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Lynda Jasmin 5/14/05
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627

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